

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 EB-07 /058 W

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O 261541Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE 2977

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,SA,IR,MU

SUBJECT: AP REPORT OF PRINCE FAHD'S ANTI-IRAN PRESS INTERVIEW

REF: A. TEHRAN 11341 B. TEHRAN 11517

1. WE HAVE NOT TAKEN UP THE QUESTION OF PRINCE FAHD'S ALLEGED ANTI-IRANIAN REMARKS TO A KUWAITI NEWSPAPER WITH THE SAUDIS THOUGHT THE AMBASSADOR HAD INTENDED TO RAISE THE MATTER INDIRECTLY WHEN HE SEES THE CROWN PRINCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE WILL RAISE IT WITH FONMIN PRINCE SAUD WHEN HE SEES HIM NOV 27. WITH OUT REFERENCE TO THE SAUDIS, HOWEVER, WE THINK IT SAFE TO SAY THAT ANY ANTI-IRANIAN REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO PRINCE FAHD ARE MORE LIKELY TO REPRESENT KUWAITI JOURNALISTIC LICENSE THAN EITHER A HARDER ANTI-IRANIAN LINE OR INTER-ARAB POSTURING. (REF. A)

2. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE PARTICULAR AP TICKER ITEM IN QUESTION BUT HAVE SEEN AN FBIS ITEM (FBIS NICOSIA 202215Z) QUOTING FROM THE INTERVIEW PRINCE FAHD GAVE TO THE KUWAITI NEWSPAPER "AR RA'I AL 'AMM". THE MOST SIGNIFICAN T PORTIONS OF THE INTERVIEW AS FAR AS SAUDI RELATIONS WITH THE GULF AND IRAN ARE CONCERNED ARE THE FOLLOWING:

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"EMIR FAHD SAID SAUDI ARABIA OPPOSES INTERFERENCE IN THE

AFFAIRS OF THE GULF BY ANY NON-GULF STATE. HE SAID HIS COUNTRY SUPPORTS ALL COOPERATION AMONG THE STATES OF THE GULF TO SECURE SECURITY AND STABILITY."

"EMIR FAHD ALSO SAID SAUDI ARABIA OPPOSES ANY FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN OMAN BY ANY QUARTER. HE SAID THE SULTANATE MUST HANDLE ITS OWN AFFAIRS WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE."

3. IF THIS IS AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF WHAT PRINCE FAHD SAID IT MIGHT BE TERMED SLIGHTLY ANTI-IRANIAN BUT IT IS NOT REALLY INCONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SAUDI ATTITUDES TOWARDS IRAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN OMAN. IN BRIEF, THE SAUDIS HAVE NEVER FELT COMFORTABLE WITH THE IRANIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN OMAN; THEY DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF IRAN SETTING A PRECEDENT FOR AN ACTIVE SECURITY ROLE ON THE ARAB SIDE OF THE PERSIAN GULF. AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR OWN INABILITY TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OF OMAN RESIST A LEFTIST INSURRECTION ASSISTED FROM THE PDRY AND THEREFORE ACCEPT THE IRANIAN ROLE.

4. THE SAUDIS WERE ANNOYED BY THE LACK OF CONSULTATION PRIOR TO THE RECENT OFFENSIVE BY IRANIAN FORCES AND THE SAF. WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, TO INDICATE ANY BASIC POLICY CHANGE BY THE SAUDIS. THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD SUBSEQUENT TO THE LATTER'S VISIT TO OMAN LAST WEEK. THEY DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENTS IN OMAN AND THE PDRY BUT NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT THE IRANIAN ROLE IN OMAN.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PRINCE FAHD'S REMARKS WERE/TAILORED TO HIS KUWAITI AUDIENCE AND TO THIS EXTENT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DEGREE OF "INTER-ARAB POSTURING". WE DO NOT THINK THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE IN SAUDI POLICY.  
AKINS

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## Message Attributes

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